

March 14 WMA4: Education & Outreach Committee

Attendees: Tom Pietrykoski, PSVC, Chair; Ashley Pengitore, PVSC, Carolyn Waugh, NJ Watershed Ambassador WMA6; Jerry Willis, National Parks Service; Michele Bakacs, NJDEP; Barbara O'Brien, LWV Ridgewood; Ellie Gruber, LWV Ridgewood; Nancy Zimmerman, Friends of Clarks Pond & Third River; Brendan Lynaugh, NJCWW; John Yocca, Lower Passaic Cooperating Parties, Gray Russell, Environmental Officer Twp of Montclair

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Minutes approved with one correction: the man who cut down trees in Ridgewood did on his property near Route 17, not the recent "horse farm" purchased land.

Liz Bell has moved from NJ; Gray wanted to know where monitoring, is at Bonsal Preserve. Michele said the interns Liz trained will be doing visual assessment on 40 half-mile segments of Third River. Michele will give Gray copies of assessments. Brendan will be new NJCWW representative, he is at Rutgers-Newark.

Paddle/Watershed Festival: Carolyn gave update. They have decided to cut out the Great Piece Meadows segment for 12 miles total; Sierra Club thinks the relay is too short, but important to leave extra time for "snags", would be ideal to end at 2PM at West Side. Distributed preliminary itinerary, are looking for donated prizes. EMS gave a \$450 donation for prizes, and Ramsey Outdoor Store is donating 6 "dry boxes", is a "Paddle Sport" event on Hackensack, supported by Riverkeeper, will publicize our event, also some individuals who Carolyn/Cara contacted will publicize. Made a flyer, which we should put in our newsletter. They will send notice to www.passaicriver.com, which is a website just for events on river. Still trying to contact Ella at PRC, but she won't respond. Should contact Russ to see if he can get response from PRC. Tara Casella of Essex County will be doing P.R. on her end. Still looking for event insurance at West Side. Tom feels Ambassador program should have its own insurance, Carolyn will check.

Still need donations to pay for t-shirts; Nancy is finding out prices, will contact Tom; about \$1,500, but PSVC is probably not going to cover whole thing. Also need food donations for West Side Park, paper goods. Banner also. Michele said must have budget, with specific items, or else difficult to ask for donations. Long discussion ensued about best way to get donations. John said he needs budget and he forwards to companies; he is confident he can secure funding, but his needs a

letter from Mark. We are very tight on time, need decisions fast. Problem that letter is not written, will contact Mark to ask if letters went out.

Carolyn read off preliminary budget items: Banner: \$250; water bottles: \$398 with logo; Frisbees: \$105; 250 bumper stickers \$169; Paper goods: \$300; trophies: \$300. Jerry W. will look into trophy purchase, will need 12 trophies, one for each winner, he has something specific in mind.; should be about \$15 each: \$180. Maybe have two banners, one for event, one for WMA, good way to unveil new name. Found website to purchase banners.

Will also need about 150 bag lunches. May be \$750; but Jerry said ask for more. In NY, Blimpies did it for NPS. Carolyn will call to see. Also will look into food donations. Thus far, the 12 teams have registered, which is 72 people racing. Thus far: PVSC-WMA#4, Sierra Club, several boy scouts troops, Newark Academy, 20 year old kayakers, Wm. Paterson, Seton Hall Law School. Will check with Elyssa and the IYO to see how many "tree planters" will be at West Side. They should brown bag their own lunches. Don't want too many IYO, with PVSC display, etc. will be too congested. Jerry is meeting with them on Friday, will ask. Fire Depts will be contacted in all towns, for first aid, and they also have safety boats. Also will need approximately 200 t-shirts, variety of sizes, budget \$1,800.

According to Tara, Essex County will cover insurance on the river, but still need at West Side, as mentioned above. They will also provide some food at beginning. For water: Jerry suggested using Keeper Springs brand, which gives a certain percentage of sales to Riverkeepers. May budget \$2,000 for food.

Need two port-o-potties in Little Falls; there are facilities at both Roseland/West Side. A lot of confusion about how letters would be written. Carolyn very concerned as it is very close to May and no specific money has been promised. She will walk to Marks office and get letter.

UPDATES;

Montclair: Gray R. reported that Cara will take part in an April 9 program of storm management outreach, including cleaning, storm drain labeling. Ellie suggested they use stickers, not painted stencils.

Bulletin: McFaul Center will be first story; but must have a lot on the Paddle/Festival. Ellie wants to convince the Bergen County Freeholders that Passaic River is important. Kirk Barrett writing about PRI. Tom feels festival should be more important, shouldn't it be in next newsletter. But Ellie said the entire newsletter in Fall reporting on paddle. Should we insert flyer? How do we refer to ourselves, as new name or old WMA#4.

DEP: Program of Visual Assessments is really coming together. Pat M. who has treatment facility on Peckman, is doing stormwater management plan, contacted DEP for all assessments so he can do fecal report. On Third River, Montclair Waterwatch is helping Gray R. in Bonsal Preserve; On Second River, Newark WW is doing assessments, new round of fecal TMDL are coming out this year, Second River will have a TMDL where fecal might be coming from. LWV still doing on HoHoKus. Naomi and GR Env.Committee on Diamond Brook.

ClarksPond-Third River: Nancy Z reports that they are still dealing with the Board of Ed about moving soccer field; now architect giving plans tomorrow, need funds in order to move field. Planting in two weeks, planting trees/bushes on other parts of preserve. Clean up planned soon. No specific dates, but will contact Michele to put dates on website.

LWVRidgewood: Still doing assessments. Michele will send extra maps when printer fixed. Barbara said LWV is very happy to be “pass through” if you need them. On the matter of letters for donations, Carolyn added she has contacted Hatchmont-McDonald (sp?). Michele suggested budget shouldn’t go out with letters, better to ask for item. Concern this is too complicated. Jerry feels need to include ranges of money for different items, makes it easier. It’s very close to paddle. Carolyn concerned money won’t come in. Ellie suggested Mark writes a letter to Bryan Christiansen and ask if they would pay for t-shirts, for \$1,500.

Waterwatch: Brendan had a successful cleanup; across from Riverbank Park, 50 volunteers, 1,400 lbs of trash; big education components with Girl Scouts, outside. Teaching in Newark. Stream monitoring going great. Went out during snowstorm to do monitoring, but Michele feels not good visibility. Having cleanup on Earth Day weekend, 23rd, at Watsessing Park, working with Conservancy. Could use help from anyone on E&O for publicizing or volunteering. Maybe ask IYO.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Gruber